

Name: _____

Date: _____

BUILDING BLOCKS STUDENT WORKSHEET

Bringing your own bag

If something is cost-effective, it means it's a good value for the amount of money you paid. A thing's value may be measured by its importance, usefulness, or how much money it's worth.

Making cost-effective choices

Read the short story and then answer the questions.

Tyrell and Elena went shopping for groceries. At the store, Elena saw reusable bags for sale for \$1 each.

"I think we should buy a reusable bag to carry our groceries," she told Tyrell. "We'll save money and we'll reduce our waste."

"Wait a second," Tyrell said. "A single-use bag is only five cents at this store. We'd have to use the reusable bag a lot of times before it would be cost-effective."

Elena looked curiously at Tyrell and asked, "What do you mean by cost-effective?"

"Cost-effective means something that provides good value for the amount of money you've paid," he answered.

"Hmmm," Elena said thoughtfully. "In that case, I think the reusable bag is totally cost-effective. We'll be able to use it for many shopping trips so it'll save us money over time AND help the environment, too."



Analysis questions

1. Single-use bags are 5 cents (\$0.05) each. Reusable bags are \$1 each. If Tyrell and Elena bought a reusable bag, how many times would they have to use it before it would cost the same as if they had bought a single-use bag each time they shopped?
2. Tyrell and Elena shop twice each week. They use the reusable bag they bought twice each week for a year (52 weeks). Their friend Jelissa also shops twice each week, but she buys a single-use bag each time. How much will Tyrell and Elena spend on bags by the end of the year? How much will Jelissa spend on bags?
3. Who will spend less money? _____ Explain.

Reflection questions

1. Would you recommend that Tyrell and Elena buy the reusable bag or the single-use bag? Why?
2. Do you make choices that are cost-effective? Describe one cost-effective choice that you or your family made in the past year.